

*Occultations observed at Highbury.* By T. W. Burr, Esq.

1863, Feb. 27th, 15 *Geminorum* disappeared at 8<sup>h</sup> 13<sup>m</sup> 21<sup>s</sup>.4, Local Sidereal Time. March 2d,  $\alpha$  *Canceri* disappeared at 10<sup>h</sup> 28<sup>m</sup> 34<sup>s</sup>.5, Local Sidereal Time.

Both occultations were by the Moon's dark limb. The star 15 *Geminorum* was very faint, and in no case could the emersion be accurately observed. Telescope as usual, my 4 ft. 4 in. Equatoreal, 3 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch aperture. Power 173. Longitude, 24<sup>s</sup> W.

*Highbury, March 12th, 1863.*

*On the Visibility of Stars in the Pleiades to the unarmed Eye.*

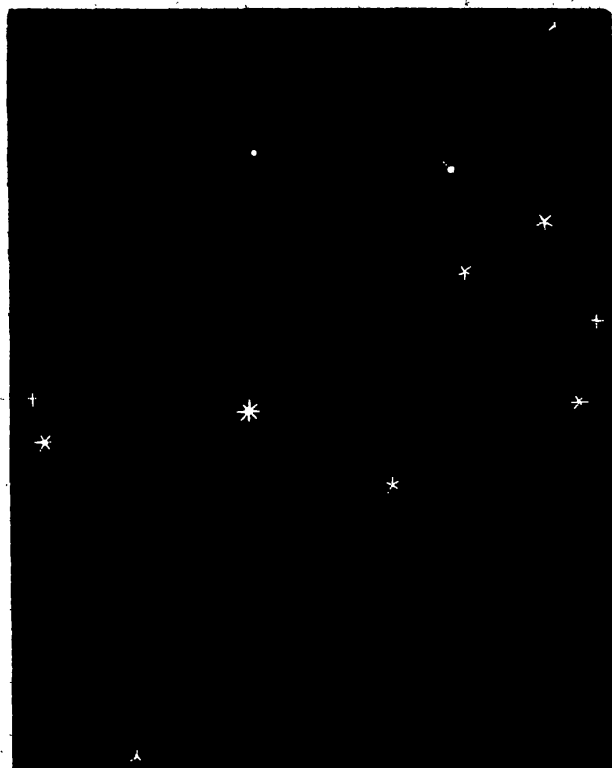
By G. B. Airy, Esq., Astronomer Royal.

To the greater number of star-gazers, with what are commonly considered "good eyes," I believe that Ovid's remark as to the visible number of *Pleiades* still applies:—

"Quæ septem dici, sex tamen esse solent."

I find, however, that one of the members of my family habitually sees seven stars, and, on rarer occasions, twelve. On the clear evening of 1863, Feb. 15th, a map of the visible stars was drawn from ocular view, and, on comparing it with

North.



a map drawn from Bessel's measures, I had no difficulty in identifying the stars as those which Bessel has marked by the following numbers:—

No. 1	No. 17 (bright)
2 (bright)	29
4	34 (brightest = <i>γ Tauri</i> )
4 (bright)	38
11 (bright)	41 (bright)
13	42 (not quite so bright)

No. 42 is the seventh star, which is seen only by acute eyes.

### *Observations of Mars.* By W. Lassell, Esq.

I have the pleasure to present to the Society herewith a series of drawings of the planet *Mars* during the late favourable opposition.\*

The more deeply-shaded parts of the series are generally the blue and neutral-tint portions—the lighter shades represent the ruddy or deep-orange parts—and the unshaded parts, the brightest portions, which are generally about the circumference. The faint lines exterior to the disk represent approximately the position of the ecliptic with respect to the phenomena of its surface. The times given are Greenwich Mean Time.

The drawings are *tracings* of the original drawings made at the telescope's side. Towards the North Pole there was generally a bright part, less marked, however, than the conspicuous spot at the South Pole. This is most striking, as might be expected, in those phases in which the neighbouring portion is most shaded. On the 22d Sept. (No. 3 drawing) a bright marginal crescent, on the following side, extended nearly over half the circumference. No. 4 (24th Sept.) was drawn from a very sharp image and with great care. On the 25th Oct. (No. 15) the long band of white near the North Pole was remarkably plain. The phenomena were best seen with a Power 760. On the 27th Oct. (No. 16) the planet exhibited with 760 a very fine view of delicate markings, very difficult to draw. There seemed to be a protuberance of the limb about (*c*), where also the limb was whiter than at the parts adjacent. A long white tract was visible at (*b*) only a little inferior to the brightness of the white spot at (*d*). There was a blueish-white district at (*a*). The dark or neutral-tint portion seemed shaded off there into a lighter hue of the same

\* These drawings will probably appear in lithograph in the volume of *Memoirs*.—ED.